

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, JA
SUBJECT: GRAY OFFICIALS FINGERED

REF: TOKYO 1614

SUMMARY: IN DRAMATIC AND HIGHLY PUBLICIZED COURTROOM SCENE,
MARUBENI MAN HAS TESTIFIED THAT HE PERSONALLY GAVE BRIBES TO LDP
POLITICIANS, ADDING PRESSURE FOR THEIR DIET APPEARANCES. END
SUMMARY.

1. IN 43RD SESSION OF TRIAL OF ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS (ANA)
OFFICIALS FOR BRIBERY, ISAO SOEJIMA, FORMER CHIEF SECRETARY
OF MARUBENI CORP., TESTIFIED THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY HANDED
CASH BRIBES TO LDP DIETMEN ON BEHALF OF ANA IN FALL OF 1972.
HE NAMED FORMER TRANSPORT MINISTER SASAKI, FORMER LDP CIVIL
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FUKUNAGA AND FORMER PARLIAMENTARY VICE
MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT SATO AND KATO AS RECIPIENTS OF TOTAL
OF 10 MILLION YEN AND, AT PROSECUTION'S INSISTENCE, EVEN
IDENTIFIED SATO IN COURTROOM, FACE TO FACE. OF THE FOUR,
ONLY SATO HAS BEEN INDICTED. OTHERS HAVE BEEN ON LIST
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SO-CALLED "GRAY NAME" UNINDICTABLES SINCE 1976, BUT
THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN COMPLEX CASE GRADUALLY SLIPPED
FROM PUBLIC VIEW.

2. SOEJIMA ALSO SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THAT HIS BOSS,
HIROSHI ITO, HAD DELIVERED BRIBES TO THEN CHIEF CABINET
SECRETARY NIKAI DO AND TRANSPORT MINISTER HASHIMOTO.

UNDER PRESSURE, HE RELUCTANTLY SAID ITO HAD, AT ONE POINT, PASSED 10 MILLION YEN TO TOSHIO ENOMOTO, THEN SECRETARY TO PRIMIN TANAKA.

3. COMMENT. AS LOCKHEED CASE HAS PROCEEDED SLOWLY THROUGH COURTS IN SET OF FOUR SIMULTANEOUS TRIALS (MARUBENI ROUTE, ANA ROUTE, OSANO AND KODAMA), DULLNESS AND LENGTHINESS OF LEGAL PROCEEDING HAVE TENDED TO PUT PUBLIC AUDIENCE TO SLEEP. SOEJIMA'S TESTIMONY WOKE EVERYONE UP AND IN PARTICULAR REMINDED PUBLIC THAT GREY NAMES HAD INDEED BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED, ADDING PRESSURE FOR THEIR DIET APPEARANCE. MARUBENI'S ITO, ACCUSED OF ACTUALLY BRIBING TANAKA, IS SCHEDULED TO TESTIFY IN APRIL.
SHERMAN

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NNN

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